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- Method and apparatus for merge processing in a text processing system.
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IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 21, no. 11, April 1979, pages 4323-29, New York (USA); R.J. GERLACH et al.: "System for simplified form fill-in using CRT display"

- (7) Proprietor: International Business Machines Corporation Old Orchard Road Armonk, N.Y. 10504 (US)
- (7) Inventor: Levine, Lewis Jay 7609 Valburn Drive Austin Texas 78731 (US) Inventor: Shipp, Kenneth Osborn, Jr. 1108 Gemini Drive Austin Texas 78758 (US)
- Representative: Tubiana, Max
 Compagnie IBM France Département de
 Propriété Industrielle
 F-06610 La Gaude (FR)

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Description

Technical field of the invention

This invention relates to a text processing system and more particularly to means and methods for enabling an operator to merge various keyed entries of text data to create a document on a text processing system.

Description of the background art

It is known in the prior art to merge keyed text data to produce a document utilizing stop codes. In a typical application, known as repetitive letters, the operator creates multiple versions of the same document, differing only in variable replacement text included in that document. The repetitive letter is created by keying and storing the master repetitive letter or shell document. The shell document is created in a similar manner to any other letter except that instead of typing the information that will change from letter to letter (for example, the name, adress, and salutation), a Switch Code is typed at each point in the shell document where the information that changes will appear. The parts of the letter that change are called variable information or variables, and the Switch Codes enable the operator to locate the places in the letter where the variables are typed.

Pagination functions typically process variable length input lines of text into uniform pages of equal length lines, keep related text on a single page, allow text lines from other documents to be inserted, and make hyphenation decisions or assist an operator of the text processing system in making hyphenation decisions when a word crosses a line ending boundary. The pagination functions are based on the concept of paginating a text document entered by an operator to produce an attractive appearing letter, for example, with equal length lines, etc. An extension of pagination, offered by some text processing systems, allows variable data from a data processing-like file to be merged with a text document to generate a composite document, for example, personalized letters. This capability is generally referred to as "merge file/text" or "auto letters". In this system, the variable data is identified by a "set symbol".

There has developed in the text processing market a requirement for systems providing enhanced operator productivity without requiring programming skills on the part of the text processing system operator.

IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 21, No 11, April 1979 pp. 4323-29 discloses a system providing means for processing pre-defined forms making use of a CRT display that provides an inter active rapport between the operator and the system.

GB—A—1363910 relates to data processing means arranged for processing text in which symbolic variables are used in a text stream and are processed by a text composition program. More particularly the invention relates to the use of a variable symbol for items of an ordered sequence which are used in the text stream.

The problem still to be solved arises from the fact that existing word processing systems are not providing convenient interactive text processing means enabling the operator to merge prestored texts in a selective way.

In accordance with the present invention, an interactive text processing system as defined in claim 1 and a method of operating an interactive text processing system as defined in claim 4 are provided in which the operator interface is usable by an operator with no programming skills.

In a specific embodiment, the operator has the option of choosing a merge operation in response to Switch Codes or a merge operation in response to Named Variables.

Brief description of the drawings

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of the system embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of the processor shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 illustrates the Merge Tasks Menu as it would appear on the display device of Fig. 1 in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 4 illustrates the Merge with Named Variables Setup Menu as it would appear on the display device of Fig. 1 in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 5 illustrates the Merge with Switch Codes Setup Menu as it would appear on the display device of Fig. 1 in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a hierarchy diagram of the merge subsystem control routines in accordance with the present invention.

Description of the preferred embodiment

Referring now to Fig. 1, a portion of the text processing system is shown, including a processor 10 to which is connected a bus 12 leading from a keyboard 14. Character data generated by manual actuation of keyboard 14 applies character-related signals to processor 10 which provides on an output memory bus 16 a data stream in which the characters selected by actuation of keyboard 14 appear suitably encoded.

Keyboard 14 comprises a normal set of graphic symbol keys such as letters, numbers, punctuation marks, and special character keys, plus text format or control keys like carriage return, indent, etc. In addition, the keyboard includes a second set of control keys for issuing special control commands to the

system. The control keys include cursor movement keys, keys for setting the keyboard into a number of different modes, etc.

Memory bus 16 extends to a memory unit 20, to a display unit 22, to a diskette unit 24 and to a printer 25.

Memory 20 includes text storage buffers 26, 26' which serve to store the coded data stream comprising the text input initially entered through the keyboard 14. Included in the text storage buffers 26, 26' are storage sections for the identity of the active document format which contains the active document keyboard character set (KB/CS) namely, in portions 28, 28'.

Text storage buffer control blocks 30, 30' are linked to buffers 26, 26' and include a cursor control section 32, 32'. The text storage buffers 26, 26' are linked to the data on the diskette 24 by storage access control blocks (SACB) (not shown), one of which is included for each text storage buffer.

A text storage buffer manager 34 is linked by channels 36, 36' to the control blocks 30, 30' by channels 38, 38' to the buffers 26, 26' and by channels 40 and 42 to a merge controller 44.

Merge controller 44 provides the control routines necessary to execute a merge operation in conjunction with text data stored in the Output TSB 26, the Fill-In TSB 26' and the record buffer 27 as will be described in greater detail later in this specification.

A keystroke control routine block 46 is provided to select the appropriate routine for the entered keystroke and is connected to Merge controller 44 by channel 47. The control blocks 30, 30' are connected to merge controller 44 by channels 48, 48'. Buffer 26 is coupled by channel 50 to a display access method block 52 which is coupled by way of channel 54 to a display refresh buffer 56. A display control block 58 is coupled by channel 60 to the display access method block 52. Get control block 57 functions to fetch data which is stored in record buffer 27.

In accordance with the present invention, a channel 62 is connected from the active document format storage 28 of buffer 26 to the merge controller 44. Further, an input keyboard character set (KB/CS) block 64 stores the identity of any desired input keyboard character set of keyboard 14 and is connected by way of channel 66 to the merge controller 44.

The display access method block has corresponding access method blocks for the diskette 24 and the printer 25. Each of the blocks serves as an interface to the corresponding unit.

The display refresh buffer 56 contains the actual text which is shown on display 22 while the buffer 26 contains all of the display text plus control data.

Menu manager 29 selects the appropriate menu to be displayed on display 22 and stores the menu image in menu buffer 31. At the appropriate time, the menu image is transferred by channel 50 to the display access method block 52 for routing to the display refresh buffer 56.

In operation of the system of Fig. 1, the encoded data stream on memory bus 16 is stored in the text storage buffer 26. In the process of correction and editing the contents of the text storage buffer 26, selected portions or lines of a page are presented on display unit 22. Stored in active document format section 28 is the code designating the keyboard character set that was employed in the production of the coded data stream appearing on memory bus 16 leading from processor 10 and applied from text storage buffer 26 to display unit 22 for edit.

If it is necessary, for example, to insert a graphic item into the text displayed on unit 22, then a cursor, conventionally available on such display systems, is placed below the character on display 22 at the location immediately preceding which an insert is to be made. The input keyboard character set identification of which the graphic item to be inserted forms a part, is applied by way of channel 66 to the merge controller 44.

Referring to Fig. 2, the processor 10 is further detailed to show typical logic hardware elements as found in such processors. The processor may be a commercially available unit, such as from Intel Corporation and identified by the number 8086, or any of the recognized functionally equivalent, currently available microprocessors. Typically, the processor includes a control logic unit 70 which responds to interrupts on a device bus 71 from the keyboard 14. The control logic unit 70 is also connected to a data and address bus 82 interconnected to various other logic units of the processor 10.

In response to a fetch instruction from the random access memory 20, the control logic unit 70 generates control signals to other logic elements of the processor. These control signals are interconnected to the various elements by means of a control line 72 which is illustrated directly connected to an arithmetic logic unit 73 and identified as a "control" line 72 to other elements of the processor. Sequence operation of a control unit 70 with other logic elements of the processor 10 is achieved by means of clock pulses input to the processor from an external clock source on a clock line 74. Line 74 is also shown interconnected to other logic elements of the processor 10 detailed in Fig. 2.

Data and instructions to be processed in the processor 10 are input through a bus control logic unit 76. Data to be processed may also come from program input/output control logic unit 77. The bus control logic 76 connects storage elements of the random access memory 20 through bus 16 and receives instructions for processing data received from the input/output control 77 or received from the random access memory 20. Thus, the input/output control 77 receives data from the keyboard 14 or the random access memory 20 while the bus control logic 76 receives instructions and/or data from the same memory. Note the different storage sections of the random access memory 20 identifiable for instruction storage and data storage.

Device control information from the processor 10 is output through program input/output controller 77

over a data bus 80. Input data on the data bus 80 from the keyboard 14 is processed internally through the processor by instructions on the bus 82 to temporary scratch registers 83. The arithmetic logic unit 73, in response to a control signal on line 72 and in accordance with instructions received on an input/output data bus 80 performs computations and the results can be stored in the temporary scratch registers 83. Various other transfers of data between the arithmetic logic unit 73 and other logic elements of the processor are, of course, possible. Such additional transfers may be to a status register 85, data pointer register 86 or a stack pointer register 87. A program counter 88 is also connected through the data stream bus 82 to various other logic elements in the processor 10.

A particular operating sequence for the processor 10 is determined by instructions and data on the memory bus 16 and input data on the bi-directional bus 80. As an example, in response to received instructions, the processor 10 transfers data stored in the scratch registers 83 to one of the registers 85, 86 or 87. Such operations of processors as detailed in Fig. 2 are considered to be well known and understood by one of ordinary skill in the data processing field. A detailed description of each operation of the processor in Fig. 2 is not deemed necessary for a full understanding of the present invention as claimed.

Prior to discussing the flow of the merge control routine and its combination with the text processing system of Fig. 1, an overview of the control system is in order. The specific problem addressed is how to provide an operator interface on a display device that permits merging of documents by either switch codes or named variables in a manner that promotes ease of learning by operators with no programming skills, ease of use and compatibility with existing text processing equipment.

The operator creates documents by combining pre-stored text data, paragraphs, or "named variables", which are known as a Shell Document, with pre-sorted personalization information known as a Fill-In Document. The Fill in Document contains one or more Replacement Lists.

The operator has the choice of executing Merge with Switch Codes, as has been done with existing text processing equipment including Magnetic Card equipment, or with Named Variables. The Named Variable allows the operator to mark a position in a document at which "variable" text data is expected to be inserted at a later time. The names of variables (Named Variables) are designated by the operator and may subsequently be used by both the operator and the system for reference. The operator may assign names which relate to the textural information to be inserted (first name or inside address, for example) at the designated position in the document.

To execute a Merge operation each Replacement List in the Fill-in Document is merged with the Shell Document. All of the filled-in copies can be stored in a single operator specified output document and optionally printed if desired. Alternatively, the document can be designated to be only printed.

Preparatory to executing a merge operation, there are two documents which must be input by the operator to the Merge application. These documents are created in Create/Revise mode. The two social documents are a Shell document and a Fill-In document.

The shell document is a document containing either variables or switch codes at locations corresponding to the places where variable text is to be inserted. Multiple shells can be created within a single document. Each unique shell is identified by a Begin Using Document Format at the top of the first page of the shell.

The Fill-In Document contains the Replacement List(s). Replacement Lists can be created by keying each replacement value followed by a switch code if Merge with Switch Codes is to be processed. If the switch code approach is used, no separators are keyed between replacement lists (i.e., there is one list and each replacement value is ended with a switch code). If merge is to be processed with named variables, multiple Replacement Lists are separated within a single document by Page End (PE) codes. If the Named Variable approach is used, replacement values must be entered following the appropriate named variable.

Once the Shell Document and the Fill-in Document have been created, the operator selects Merge Tasks from the Task Selection Menu and the Merge Tasks Menu will be displayed. An illustration of the Merge Tasks Menu as it would appear on the display device is shown in Fig. 3.

A prompt line of the display instructs the operator to type the ID letter to choose an ITEM. The operator makes this selection by typing the appropriate letter in place of the underlined small square at the end of the prompt line of the display and pressing the ENTER key on keyboard 14. The underline represents the position of the cursor and the small square represents the location at which the first keyed character is displayed. For example, to select a Merge with Named Variables, the operator types a "a" in the designated

In response to the above selection, the Merge with Named Variables Setup Menu is displayed on the display device, and an illustration of this menu is shown in Fig. 4. This menu instructs the operator to make selections concerning the name and location of the Shell Document, the name, location and page numbers to be used for the Fill-In Document and the name and location to be stored for the Merged Document. These selections are made by keying the appropriate ID letter followed by a space and the designated name.

Should the selection be made to Merge with Switch Codes, the Merge with Switch Codes Setup Menu would be displayed and an illustration of this menu is included in Fig. 5. This menu instructs the operator to make choices for the name and location of the Shell Document and the Fill-In Document and the name and location to be stored for the Merged Document. After all the selections are made, the operator presses the ENTER key to start the Merge process.

A Hierarchy Diagram of the Merge Subsystem is shown in Fig. 6 which shows the relationship between the various routines used to execute the Merge process called by the application supervisor 90 under the control of the merge supervisor 91.

These routines include the Merge Start/End routines (steps 92, 93) which function to display the Merge Task Selection Menu (step 95) and to set up various components and initiate the Merge process (step 96). The Merge Controller 94 controls the Merge process and the Merge Shell Build 97 deals with the actual process for building and outputting the Shell Document (step 98).

The Shell Document is stored on the designated diskette and a copy of the Shell Document is copied into the Output TSB 26. The FIII-In Document is opened (step 99) and the first page is placed in the Fill-In TSB 26'. Each page includes all the variable information for one document. The pagination routine is then invoked in normal fashion. During this routine, the text in the Output TSB 26 is scanned to detect any control codes. Any control codes such as an INCLUDE instruction, for example, are resolved by the pagination routine by instructing the GET control Block to fetch any designated data for inclusion into the document included in Output TSB or the part of the document stored in Fill-In TSB. The designated data is fetched (steps 103, 104, 109) one record at a time and the fetched data is stored in record buffer 27 and transferred into the Output TSB as needed. The pagination routine then proceeds to resolve the control codes (step 105) as encountered. These control codes may be such codes as the previously mentioned INCLUDE instructions (step 106) or either Switch Codes or Named Variables utilized in the Merge process. In the case of Switch Codes or Named Variables (step 107), the data in the Fill-in TSB is scanned and transferred into the designated insert location (step 108) within the text stored in the Output TSB. The pagination routine continues to merge the designated text data into the Output TSB until a page is completed. At a Page End the TSB Manager 34 stores the completed page on the designated diskette. In addition, if printing is designated by the operator, the page is also sent to the printer 25 (steps 101, 102). The Merge process continues in this manner until all of the pages in the document have been processed 25 (steps 110, 111) Error Handler steps 112 to 115 are also available.

Suitable program routines in program design language (PDL) for implementing the described Merge control system are shown in the following tables:

DESCRIPTIVE-NAME=MERGE START/END

FUNCTION= The Merge Start/End component (MSE----) contains the routines necessary to load and delete the routines used by the Merge load. In addition, it contains a routine that will display the Merge Task Selection menu and initiate the Merge process.

TABLE 1 MERGE INITIALIZE

BEGIN (MSEINIT) PUT UP THE 'LOADING TASK' MODE MSG LOAD ROUTINES FOR MERGE APPLICATION IF LOAD RETURN CODE IS NOT FATAL 40 ALLOCATE AND INITIALIZE DATA AREAS INITIALIZE POINTER TO DATA AREAS INITIALIZE THE SACB FIELDS IN MERGE DATA AREAS INITIALIZE DISPLAY STATUS LINE **ELSE** 45 PUT UP ERROR MESSAGE ENDIF RESTORE THE LOADSET RETURN CODE RETURN TO CALLER END (MSEINIT)

> TABLE 2 MERGE TERMINATION

BEGIN (MSETERM)

DELETE THE MERGE APPLICATION

FREE THE MERGE DATA AREAS

RETURN TO CALLER

END (MSETERM)

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TABLE 3 MERGE SUPERVISOR

```
BEGIN (MSESUPER)
       FETCH THE KEYBOARD ARRANGEMENT
       PLACE ARRANGEMENT IN THE MERGE DATA AREA ALLOCATE THE MERGE WORKSPACE
       BUILD THE MERGE POOL
       ALLOCATE THE SPACE FOR THE TWO TSBS, THE DOCUMENT
        FORMAT BUFFER, THE VARIABLE FILL-IN PAGE NAME
        LIST BUFFER, THE MERGE CONTROL BLOCK, AND THE GET PAGE(S) CONTROL BLOCK
  10
       CALCULATE AND SAVE THE ADDRESSES OF THE ABOVE DATA AREAS
       UNTIL THE OPERATOR CHOOSES THE "RETURN TO TASK SELECTION" OPTION OR CANCELS THE
     MENU DO
        IF THE MENU BUFFER DOES NOT EXIST THEN
 15
          ALLOCATE THE MENU BUFFER
          ALLOCATE THE MENU DESCRIPTORS
        ENDIF
        INITIALIZE THE MENU DESCRIPTORS FOR THE MERGE TASK SELECTION MENU
        DISPLAY THE MERGE TASK SELECTION MENU
 20
        IF OPERATOR DID NOT CANCEL, THEN
IF THE OPERATOR CHOSE ONE OF THE MERGE DIRECTIVE OPTIONS THEN
           IF SWITCH CODE MERGE WAS CHOSEN THEN
             TURN ON THE APPROPRIATE FLAG
           ENDIF
 25
           CALL THE MERGE PROCESS CONTROLLER
           IF MERGE COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY THEN DISPLAY "MERGE COMPLETE"
           ELSE
             IF NO VARIABLES OR SWITCH CODES WERE FOUND THEN
30
             ENDIF
           ENDIF
         ENDIF
       ENDIF
35
     ENDDO
     IF THE MENU BUFFER EXISTS THEN
       FREE THE MENU BUFFER AND THE MENU DESCRIPTORS
     ENDIF
     FREE THE REMAINING DATA AREAS
     FREE THE MERGE POOL
     FREE THE MERGE WORKSPACE
     RETURN TO CALLER
   END MSESUPER
45
```

DESCRIPTIVE-NAME=MERGE CONTROLLER

FUNCTION= The Merge Controller component (MCN----) contains the routines which control the Merge process. This component controls repetitive Letters and Document Assembly functions for both named VARIABLEs and switch code Merge. This component detects all setup errors and redisplays the appropriate setup menu so the operator may correct the error.

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TABLE 4 MERGE CONTROLLER

```
BEGIN MCNCNTLR
     INITIALIZE THE SACBS IN THE MAVT
     INVOKE MCNSMENU—DISPLAY AND PROCESS THE APPROPRIATE SETUP MENU
     IF MEDIA OUTPUT THEN
      SET UP FOR OUTPUT DOCUMENT
     ENDIF
     IF THE OPERATOR DID NOT ABORT THEN
      SET THE DEFAULT INCLUDE DISKETTE NAME FIELD IN THE GET CONTROL BLOCK
10
      DISPLAY THE MERGING MESSAGE ON THE DISPLAY STATUS LINES
      FREE THE MENU DESCRIPTORS AND MENU BUFFER
      WHILE MERGE_NOT_FINISHED -AND- THE ABORT FLAG IS OFF DO
          IF NO TERMINAL ERROR OCCURRED THEN
        UNTIL A PAGE IS FOUND OR NO MORE PAGES DO INVOKE MSBBUMPV—READ THE NEXT VARIABLE
15
           LIST INTO THE TSB
          ENDIF
        IF THE MERGE FINISHED FLAG WAS NOT SET THEN
          IF NO TERMINAL ERROR OCCURRED THEN
20
           INVOKE MSBBLDSH-MERGE THE DOCUMENT
          IF ANY TERMINAL ERRORS OCCURRED (IN MSBBUMPV OR MSBBLDSH) THEN
           TURN ON THE ABORT FLAG (TO TERMINATE MERGE) AND CALL
             THE ERROR HANDLER SUBROUTINE
25
           POLL FOR REQUEST OR END KEYS
           IF REQUEST WAS HIT THEN
PASS CONTROL TO THE REQUEST KEY PROCESSOR
             CLEAR THE SCREEN
30
           ENDIF
         ENDIF
        ENDIF
      ENDDO
      INVOKE MSBCOMP-BRING THE MERGE TASK TO AN ORDERLY HALT
35
     ENDIF
    IF MSBCOMP HAD A TERMINAL ERROR THEN
      CHECK FOR AND HANDLE ANY ERRORS
    ENDIF
    IF MERGE WAS ABORTED DUE TO ERRORS THEN
40
      IF PRINT ONLY AND NO PAGES FOUND THEN
        PUT UP NO PAGES FOUND MESSAGE
      ELSE
      DISPLAY THE 'MERGE UNSUCCESSFUL' MESSAGE
    ENDIF
45
    ENDIF
    CLEAR THE MERGING MESSAGE ON DISPLAY STATUS LINES
    RETURN TO THE CALLER
   END MCNCNTLR
60
```

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TABLE 5

```
SETUP MENU
      . BEGIN (MCNSETUP)
         OPEN THE SHELL DOCUMENT
         OPEN THE VARIABLE FILL-IN DOCUMENT IF OUTPUT IS NOT 'PRINT ONLY' THEN
            CREATE THE OUTPUT DOCUMENT
         ENDIF
        ENDIF
UNTIL ALL OF DOCUMENT FORMAT IS READ IN DO
READ THE NEXT (FIRST) DOCUMENT FORMAT RECORD OF
THE SHELL DOCUMENT INTO THE DOCUMENT FORMAT BUFFER
IF OUTPUT IS NOT 'PRINT ONLY' THEN
WRITE THE DOCUMENT FORMAT RECORD TO THE OUTPUT DOCUMENT
IF WE ARE WRITING OUT THE FIRST RECORD OF DOCUMENT FORMAT THEN
 10
 15
                 NAME THE RECORD
              ENDIF
           ENDIF
         ENDDO
         IF OUTPUT IS NOT 'PRINT ONLY' THEN
 20
           WRITE THE DOCUMENT FORMAT RECORD TO THE OUTPUT DOCUMENT
           NAME THE RECORD
        ENDIF
        INITIALIZE THE TWO TSBS AND TSB CONTROL BLOCKS
        HANDLE ANY READ/WRITE ERRORS
       HANDLE OUTPUT DOCUMENT OPEN ERRORS
HANDLE VARIABLE DOCUMENT OPEN ERRORS
HANDLE ANY OPEN ERRORS
RETURN TO CALLER
25
     END (MCNSETUP)
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TABLE 6
INITIALIZE MENU

```
BEGIN (MCNSMENU)
      UNTIL THE MERGE SETUP IS PROPERLY ENTERED
         -OR- THE OPERATOR CANCELLED WITHOUT CHANGES DO
        IF THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE MENU WILL BE DISPLAYED OR DID THE OPERATOR CANCEL THE
          MENU WITH CHANGES MADE THEN
          INITIALIZE THE NUMERIC MENU DESCRIPTORS
          FIND THE DEFAULT PAPER FEED TYPE
 10
          DETERMINE WHETHER A DEFAULT DISKETTE EXISTS
            ON THE SYSTEM AND INITIALIZE THE SHELL
            DISKETTE MENU DESCRIPTORS
         INITIALIZE THE VARIABLE FILL-IN DISKETTE MENU DESCRIPTORS INITIALIZE THE OUTPUT DISKETTE MENU DESCRIPTORS
 15
         UNLOCK THE SYSTEM RESOURCES INITIALIZE THE DOCUMENT MENU DESCRIPTORS
          INITIALIZE THE PAGE NAME LIST MENU DESCRIPTORS
        ENDIF
        IF SWITCH CODE MERGE WAS CHOSEN THEN
20
         POINT TO THE SWITCH CODE MERGE MENU DESCRIPTORS
         POINT TO THE NAMED VARIABLE MERGE MENU DESCRIPTORS
        ENDIF
        PUT UP THE APPROPRIATE SETUP MENU
25
       IF THE MENU WAS CANCELLED WITH EITHER CHANGES OR NO CHANGES MADE TO THE MENU THEN
         IF THE CANCEL WAS WITH NO CHANGES THEN
           TURN ON THE ABORT AND CANCEL FLAGS
         ENDIF
30
       ELSE
         MARK MENU ITEMS INVALID IF THE OPERATOR DID -
           NOT SPECIFY A SHELL DOCUMENT NAME, A SHELL
           DISKETTE NAME, A VARIABLE FILL-IN DOCUMENT
           NAME AND A VARIABLE FILL-IN DISKETTE NAME
35
         IF ALL OF THE REQUIRED PARAMETERS WERE ENTERED THEN PROCESS THE PRINT OUTPUT DOCUMENT OPTION
           PROCESS THE OUTPUT DOCUMENT NAME OPTION
           IF THE OPERATOR SPECIFIED AN INVALID OUTPUT TYPE THEN
             TURN ON THE SETUP ERROR OCCURRED FLAG AND
40
               MARK THE APPROPRIATE MENU ITEMS AS INVALID
           ENDIF
           IF NO INVALID OUTPUT TYPE ERROR OCCURRED
           THEN
             PROCESS THE CANCEL OR ERROR OPTION
45
             PROCESS THE VARIABLE FILL-IN PAGE NAME LIST OPTION
             INVOKE MCNSETUP-CREATE/OPEN SPECIFIED
               DOCUMENTS AND INITIALIZE THE SPECIFIED TSBS
           ENDIF
         ENDIF
50
       ENDIF
     ENDDO
     RETURN TO CALLER
   END MCNSMENU
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```

DESCRIPTIVE-NAME-MERGE SHELL BUILD

FUNCTION= The Merge Shell Build component (MSB----) deals with the actual process of building and outputting the shell via the Merge Application. This component is responsible for detecting and saving all execution errors.

TABLE 7 BUILD SHELL

```
BEGIN (MSBBLDSH)
      IF NOT FIRST TIME THRU THEN
       CALL THE GET SHELL ROUTINE TO PUT THE OPERATOR
        SPECIFIED SHELL INTO THE APPROPRIATE OUTPUT DOCUMENT
       PAGINATE AND RESOLVE THE INCLUDES AND VARIABLES
       RECORD THE LAST PAGE
      INDICATE END OF SHELL
      CALL PRINTER INTERFACE TO ENTER THE LAST PAGE IN TRAIL PRINT
      RESET END OF SHELL
      IF NO VARIABLE FOUND IN SHELL THEN
        SETUP FOR ABORT
      ENDIF
      RETURN TO THE CALLER
    END MSBBLDSH
                                          TABLE 8
 20
                                 INSERT VALUE INTO OUTPUT
    BEGIN (MSBINVAL)
     SAVE CHARACTER SET AT END OF VALUE MOVE CURSOR TO START OF VALUE
      SAVE CHAR SET AT START OF VALUE
     RESOLVE ANY CHARACTER SET MISMATCHES AT START OF VALUE
     MOVE CURSOR TO END OF SWITCH CODE OR NAMED VARIABLE
     RESOLVE ANY CHARACTER SET MISMATCHES AT END OF VALUE
     ENDDO
     RETURN TO THE CALLER
30 END (MSBINVAL)
                                          TABLE 9
                                     VARIABLE SEARCH
   BEGIN (MSBVSRCH)
35
     INDICATE A VALUE HAS NOT BEEN FOUND
     INDICATE END OF VALUE NOT FOUND
     IF NOT SWITCH CODE MERGE THEN
CHECK CURRENT VARIABLE FOR NAME MATCH
       IF VALUE NOT FOUND THEN
40
        IF NOT AT TOP OF PAGE THEN
          PUT REPLACEMENT LIST LOCATION POINTER AT TOP OF PAGE
        ENDIF
        UNTIL VARIABLE NAME MATCH FOUND OR END OF PAGE FOUND DO
          CHECK CURRENT VARIABLE FOR NAME MATCH
45
         IF VARIABLE NAME MATCH NOT FOUND THEN
           MOVE TO NEXT CONTROL SEQUENCE
         ENDIF
        ENDDO
      ENDIF
      IF VALUE FOUND THEN
        SAVE LOCATION OF FIRST CHARACTER
        FIND END OF VALUE
       SAVE LOCATION OF VALUE END
      ENDIF
    ELSE
    INDICATE A VARIABLE WAS FOUND IN SHELL
     IF NOT AT END OF DOCUMENT THEN
       INDICATE VALUE FOUND
       SAVE LOCATION OF VALUE START
       MOVE TO NEXT SWITCH CODE OR END OF DOCUMENT
       SAVE LOCATION OF END OF VALUE
     ENDIF
    ENDIF
   RETURN TO CALLER
```

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65 END MSBVSRCH

TABLE 10 SHELL BUILD COMPLETION

BEGIN (MSBCOMP)
REINITALIZE MERGE CONTROL BLOCK
REINITIATE GET CONTROL BLOCK
CLOSE THE FILL-IN DOCUMENT
CLOSE THE SHELL DOCUMENT
CLOSE THE OUTPUT DOCUMENT
COMPLETE PRINTING OF OUTPUT BACKGROUND
RETURN TO CALLER
END MSBCOMP

TABLE 11 RESOLVE INCLUDES

15 BEGIN (MSBRSINC)
SETUP TO RESOLVE INCLUDED PAGES
RESOLVE INCLUDES BY FETCHING PAGE
HANDLE ERRORS
IF ABORT INDICATED THEN
INDICATE IT IN RETURN CODE
ENDIF
RETURN TO CALLER
END (MSBRSINC)

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TABLE 12 RESOLVE PAGE

```
BEGIN (MSBRSPG)
        IF NOT END OF MERGE THEN
          IF PRINT OUTPUT THEN
IF PRINT ONLY THEN
             IF $SYSDOC1 PRINTING AND PROCESSING
               THEN GIVE PAGE TO PRINTER
             ELSE
               IF $SYSDOC2 IS PRINTING AND PROCESSING THEN GIVE PAGE TO PRINTER
  10
               ELSE
                 IF ONE DOCUMENT PRINTING AND THE OTHER
                 PROCESSING THEN
                   IF END OF A SHELL THEN
  15
                    DETERMINE DOCUMENT STATUS
                    IF SYSTEM DOCUMENT IN THE QUEUE IS NOT PRINTING THEN
POST MERGE WAITING UNTIL DOCUMENT NOW PRINTING IS FINISHED
UNTIL SYSTEM DOCUMENT FINISHED
                        PRINTING OR END PRESSED DO
POLL FOR REQUEST KEY
POLL FOR END KEY
  20
                      ENDDO
                      TAKE MESSAGE DOWN
                    ENDIF
 25
                  ENDIF
                  DETERMINE DOCUMENT STATUS
                  IF DOCUMENT THRU PRINTING THEN
                  IF NOT AN ABORT THEN
                  ENDIF
 30
                    GIVE NEW DOCUMENT TO PRINTER
                    INDICATE DOCUMENT IS PRINTING
                  ENDIF
                ELSE
35
                  IF $SYSDOC1 PROCESSING AND $SYSDOC2
                    NONEXISTENT THEN
                    GIVE NEW DOCUMENT TO PRINTER
                    IF DOCUMENT SUBMITTED TO PRINT THEN
                    INDICATE DOCUMENT IS PRINTING
40
                  ENDIF
                  ENDIF
                ENDIF
              ENDIF
            ENDIF
45
          ELSE
            GIVE PAGE TO TRAIL PRINT
            INDICATE DOCUMENT IS PRINTING
          ENDIF
          SAVE CURRENT PAGE NAME OF OUTPUT DOCUMENT
        ENDIF
50
      ELSE
        POLL FOR REQUEST KEY
        POLL FOR END KEY
      ENDIF
      RETURN TO THE CALLER
55
    END MSBRSPG
    $SYSDOC1 AND $SYSDOC2 ARE TEMPORARY SYSTEM DOCUMENTS
```

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TABLE 13
GET NEXT REPLACEMENT LIST

```
BEGIN (MSBBUMPV)
      IF NOT SWITCH CODE MERGE THEN
UNTIL NEXT LIST FOUND OR NO MORE LISTS DO
 5
          IF ALL REPLACEMENT LISTS ARE TO BE USED AND IF FIRST TIME THEN
             GET FIRST PAGE
           ELSE
            IF ALL REPLACEMENT LISTS ARE TO BE USED THEN SAVE NEXT PAGE NAME OF REPL. LIST
10
             ELSE
          IF FIRST TIME THRU THEN
            INDICATE DONE ONCE
           ENDIF
15
               SAVE NEXT PAGE NAME OF REPL. LIST
             ENDIF
            IF NOT ON LAST PAGE OF DOCUMENT OR NOT ON LAST PAGE OF PAGE LIST THEN GET THE NEXT PAGE
20
            ENDIF
          ENDIF
        ENDDO
      ELSE
        IF FIRST TIME THRU THEN
25
          GET THE FIRST PAGE
        ELSE
          IF END OF DOCUMENT THEN INDICATE MERGE COMPLETE
          ELSE
30
            IF NEXT CHARACTER IS A LINE END THEN
              MAKE SURE ANOTHER VARIABLE EXISTS
            ENDIF
          ENDIF
        ENDIF
35
      ENDIF
      IF NOT FINISHED MERGING THEN
        INDICATE PAGE FOUND
        UPDATE THE PAGE NAME
      ENDIF
40
      ERROR HANDLING
    RETURN TO CALLER END MSBBUMPV
```

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TABLE 14
GET INTERMEDIATE SHELL

```
BEGIN (MSBGISHL)
     IF PRINT ONLY OUTPUT THEN
      IF FIRST TIME THRU THEN
        OPEN (CREATE) $SYSDOC1
        SET $SYSDOC1 STATUS TO PROCESSING
      ENDIF
      IF $SYSDOC1 STATUS IS PRINTING THEN
        RESET $SYSDOC1 PROCESSING
10
        DELETE $SYSDOC2
        OPEN (CREATE) $SYSDOC2
        SET $SYSDOC2 STATUS TO PROCESSING
      ELSE
        IF $SYSDOC2 STATUS IS PRINTING THEN
15
          RESET $SYSDOC2 PROCESSING
         DELETE $SYSDOC1
         SET $SYSDOC1 STATUS TO PROCESSING
        ENDIF
      ENDIF
20
      ESTABLISH TSB SESSION WITH ACTIVE DOCUMENT
      COPY DOCUMENT FORMAT FROM BUFFER TO ACTIVE DOCUMENT
    ENDIF
    IF PRINT ONLY OR IF FIRST TIME THRU AND MEDIA OUTPUT THEN FETCH AND STORE DOCUMENT FORMAT
25
      SETUP TO READ AND STORE DOCUMENT FORMAT
      READ DOCUMENT FORMAT
      STORE DOCUMENT FORMAT
    ENDIF
    STORE STARTING PAGE NAME
    MOVE OPERATOR SPECIFIED SHELL INTO APPROPRIATE OUTPUT DOCUMENT
    RETURN TO THE CALLER
  END MSBGISHL
                            DESCRIPTIVE-NAME=MERGE ERRORS
  FUNCTION= The Merge Errors component (MER----) deals with the insertion of the output shell error
            messages and the quantitative error message at the end of the shell in which the error(s)
             occurred.
                                        TABLE 15
                            MERGE EXECUTION ERROR HANDLER
  BEGIN (MERHNDLR)
    GET ADDRESS OF MERGE ERROR CONTROL BLOCK
    GET TSB CONTROL BLOCK ADDRESS
    GET THE ERROR NUMBER
   INDICATE AN EXECUTION ERROR FOUND DURING MERGE
   SAVE CURRENT TSB LOCATION
   BUMP THE SEQUENTIAL ERROR NUMBER
   DETERMINE WHICH MESSAGE TO USE FROM ERROR MESSAGE TABLE
   GET START OF TABLE
   SUBTRACT ONE FROM ERROR CODE TO GET CORRECT DISPLACEMENT INTO TABLE
   FIND OFFSET OF MESSAGE DISPLACEMENT
   SAVE THE MESSAGE NUMBER
   GENERATE POINTER TO WORK AREA FOR BUILDING THE ERROR MESSAGE
   ESTABLISH TSB ADDRESSABILITY
   SAVE THE POINTER
   BUILD MESSAGE
   MOVE MESSAGE INTO TSB
   ESTABLISH TSB ADDRESSABILITY
   CALCULATE HOW MANY CHARACTERS TO MOVE
   MOVE MESSAGE INTO TSB
```

IF CANCEL ON ERROR IS ACTIVE THEN INDICATE ABORT

RETURN TO THE CALLER

ENDIE

65 END MERHNDLR

TABLE 16 MERGE ERROR MESSAGE NUMBER TABLE

BEGIN (MERTBL) END MERHNDLR

THIS TABLE CONTAINS A LIST OF ALL THE MERGE EXECUTION ERRORS

While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to a preferred embodiment it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various other changes by equivalent means may be made such as utilizing other types of input/output devices, other types of displays other memory organizations without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the claims.

Claims

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1. Interactive text processing system in which a document input by way of a keyboard (14) is stored (20), displayed (22) to an operator, and merged with other keyed data in accordance with directions supplied to said system by an operator interacting with the keyboard (14) and the display unit, comprising: means (90, 91) allowing the operator to signal by way of the keyboard, by a first or a second control code, the location in a document at which an insert of pre-stored text data is to be added to the documents.

means (94) causing the system to display a first menu (fig. 3) of predetermined task selections

selectable by the operator,

means allowing the operator to select by way of the keyboard either a first type (a, fig. 3) of merge operation operable in response to said first control code or a second type (b, fig. 3) of merge operation operable in response to said second control code,

means causing the system to display, when said first type of merge operation is selected by the operator, a second menu of predetermined task selections or, when said second type of merge operation is selected by the operator, a third menu of predetermined task selections,

means allowing the operator to specify the way of the keyboard and identification of an insert of pre-stored text data, and

means (44) for causing the system to fetch, in response to the specified Identification, the appropriate insert of pre-stored text data and to merge said data into said document at the signalled location to produce a revised document.

2. Interactive text processing system according to claim 1 characterized in that said first control code comprises conventional coded data known as Switch Codes.

3. Interactive text processing system according to claim 1 characterized in that first control code comprises operator's set up references related to the textual information to be inserted and designated as "Names variables".

4. A method of operating an interactive text processing system in which a document input by way of a keyboard (14) is stored (20), displayed (22) to an operator, and merged with other keyed data in accordance with directions supplied to said system by an operator interacting with the keyboard and the display unit, the method comprising the steps of:

allowing the operator to signal by way of the keyboard, by a first or a second control code, the location in a document at which an insert of pre-stored text data is to be added to the document;

causing the system to display a first menu of predetermined task selections selectable by the operator, allowing the operator to select by way of the keyboard either a first type of merge operation operable in response to said first control code or a second type of merge operation operable in response to said second control code.

causing the system to display, when said first type of merge operation is selected by the operator, a second menu of predetermined task selections or, when said second type of merge operation is selected by the operator, a third menu of predetermined task selections,

allowing the operator to specify by way of the keyboard the identification of an insert of pre-stored text data, and

causing the system to fetch, in response to the specified identification, the appropriate insert of pre-stored text data and to merge said data into said document at the signalled location to produce a revised document.

Method according to claim 4, characterised in that said first control code comprises Switch Codes.
 Method according to claim 4 characterized in that said second control code comprises Named Variables.

Patentansprüche

1. Interaktives Textvererbeitungssystem, in dem ein über eine Tastatur (14) eingegebenes Dokument (20) gespeichert, einem Bediener angezeigt (22) mit anderen über eine Tastatur angegebene Daten gemäss Anweisungen verschmolzen wird, die dem besagten System durch einen Bediener mit Hilfe der Tastatur (14) und der Anzeigeeinheit mitgeteilt werden, enthaltend:

Mittel (90, 91), die es dem Bediener gestatten, über die Tastatur durch einen ersten oder einen zweiten

Steuercode die Stelle in einem Dokument anzugeben, in dem vorgespeicherte Textdaten in das Dokument eingefügt werden sollen.

Mittel (94), die das System veranlassen, ein erstes Menu (Abb. 3) vorgegebener Aufgaben anzuzeigen,

die vom Bediener gewählt werden können.

Mittel, die es dem Bediener gestatten, über die Tastatur entweder einen ersten Typ (a, Abb. 3) eines Veschmelzungsvorgangs vorzunehmen, der sich in Antwort auf den besagten ersten Steuercode durchführen lässt, oder von einem zweiten Typ, der sich als Antwort auf den zweiten Steuercode durchführen lässt.

Mittel, welche das System veranlassen, wenn besagter erster Verschmelzungstyp vom Bediener 10 gewählt wird, ein zweites Menü vorgegebener Aufgabe anzuzeigen, oder wenn der zweite Typ der Verschmelzungsvorgänge gewählt wird, ein drittes Menü mit vorgegebenen Aufgaben.

Mittel, die es dem Bediener gestatten, über die Tastatur die Identifizierung einer Einfügung von

vorgespeicherten Textdaten vorzunehmen, und

Mittel (44), welche das System veranlassen, andsprechend auf die spezifizierte Identifizierung die entsprechende Einfügung vorgespeicherter Textdaten vorzunehmen und die besagten Daten in besagtem Dokument an der angegebenen Stelle einzufügen, um ein überarbeitetes Dokument zu erstellen.

2. Interaktives Textverarbeitungssystem gemäss Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der erste Kontrollkode konventionell kodierte Daten enthält, die als Umschaltkode bekannt sind.

3. Interaktives Testverarbeitungssystem gemäss Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der erste Steuercode vom Bediener eingesetzte Referenzen enthält, die sich auf die einzufügende Textinformation beziehen und also "Variablennamen" bezeichnet sind.

4. Methode der Betätigung eines interaktiven Textverarbeitungssystem, in dem ein über eine Tastatur eingegebenes Dokument (14) gespeichert (20), dem Bediener angezeigt (22) und mit anderen verschlüsselten Daten gemäss den dem System vom Bediener über Tastatur und Anzeigeeinheit erteilten Weisungen verschmolzen wird, wobei die Methode folgende Schritte enthält:

dem Bediener wird ermöglicht, über die Tastatur durch einen ersten oder zweiten Steuercode die Stelle in einem Dokument anzugeben, an der eine Einfügung vorgespeicherter Textdaten im Dokument vorgenommen werden soll,

das System wird veranlasst, ein erstes Menü vorgegebener Aufgaban anzuzeigen, aus denen der

30 Bediener eine auswählen kann;

dem Bediener wird gestattet, über die Tastatur entweder einen ersten Typ eines Vermischungsvorgangs auszuwählen, der sich in Antwort auf besagten ersten Steuercode durchführen lässt, oder einen zweiten Typ Vermischungsvorgang, der in Antwort auf besagten zweiten Steuercode ausgeführt wird,

das System wird veranlasst, wenn besagter erster Verschmelzungstyp vom Bediener gewählt wird, ein zweites Menü mit vorgegebenen Aufgaben anzuzeigen, oder wenn besagter zweiter Typ des Verschmelzungsvorgangs vom Bediener gewählt wird, ein drittes Menû vorgegebener Aufgaben,

dem Bediener wird gestattet, über die Tastatur die Identifizierung der Einfügung vorgespeicherter Textdaten zu spezifizieren,

das System wird veranlasst, ansprechend auf die spezifierte Identifikation die gewünschten vorgespeicherten Textdaten zu holen und besagte Daten in das besagte Dokument an der angegebenen Stelle einzufügen, um ein überarbeitetes Dokument herzustellen.

5. Verfahren gemäss Anspruch 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass besagte erste Kontrolle Umschaltcodes enthält.

6. Methode gemäss Anspruch 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass besagte zweite Steuerkode benannte Variablen enthält.

Revendications

1. Système de traitement de texte interactif dans lequel une entrée de document effectuée au moyen d'un clavier (14) est mise en mémoire (20), affichée en (22) pour l'opérateur et mélangée à d'autres données entrées au clavier selon des directions délivrées audit système par l'opérateur en interaction avec le clavier (14) et l'unité d'affichage, comprenant:

des moyens (90, 91) permettant à l'opérateur de signaler au moyen du clavier et par un premier ou un second code de commande, l'emplacement dans un document où des données de texte préammagasinées doivent être ajoutées par insertion,

des moyens (94) provoquant l'affichage par le système d'un premier menu (Figure 3) d'une sélection de tâches prédéterminées pouvant être sélectionnées par l'opérateur,

des moyens permettant à l'opérateur de sélectionner au moyen du clavier soit un premier type (a, Figure 3) d'opération de fusion pouvant être effectuée en réponse audit premier code de commande, soit un second type (b, Figure 3) d'opération de fusion pouvant être effectuée en réponse audit second code de

des moyens provoquant l'affichage par le système lorsque ledit premier type d'opération de fusion est choisi par l'opérateur, d'un second menu de tâches prédéterminées ou, lorsque ledit second type d'opération de fusion est choisi par l'opérateur, d'un troisième menu de tâches prédéterminées,

des moyens permettant à l'opérateur de spécifier au moyen du clavier, l'identification d'une insertion de données de texte pré-emmagasinées, et

des moyens (44) pour provoquer le retrait par le système, en réponse à l'identification spécifiée, de l'insertion appropriée de données de texte pré-emmagasinées et la fusion desdites données dans ledit document à l'emplacement signalé pour obtenir un document révisé.

2. Système de traitement de texte interactif selon la revendication 1 caractérisé en ce que ledit premier code de commande comprend des données codées classiques appelées "Codes de Commutation".

3. Système de traitement de texte interactif selon la revendication 1 caractérisé en ce que le premier code de commande comprend des références de mise en place de l'opérateur relatives à l'information textuelle à insérer et appelées "Variables nommées".

4. Une méthode d'actionnement d'un système de traitement de texte interactif dans lequel une entrée de document au moyen d'un clavier (14) est mise en mémoire (20), affichée en (22) pour un opérateur et mélangée avec d'autres données entrées au clavier selon des revendications délivrées audit système par un opérateur en interaction avec le clavier et l'unité d'affichage, la méthode:

permettant à l'opérateur de signaler par l'intermédiaire du clavier, au moyen d'un premier ou d'un seconde code de commande, l'emplacement dans un document où des données de texte préemmagasinées doivent être ajoutées,

provoquant l'affichage par le système d'un premier menu de tâches prédéterminées pouvant être choisies par l'opérateur,

permettant à l'opérateur de sélectionner au moyen du clavier soit un premier type d'opération de fusion pouvant être actionné en réponse audit premier code de commande, soit un second type d'opération de fusion pouvant être actionnée en réponse audit seconde code de commande,

provoquant l'affichage par le système lorsque ledit premier type d'opération de fusion est choisi par l'opérateur, d'un second menu de tâches prédéterminées ou lorsque ledit second type d'opération de fusion est choisi par l'opérateur, d'un troisème menu de tâches prédéterminées,

permettant à l'opérateur de spécifier au moyen du clavier, l'identification d'une insertion de données de texte pré-emmagasinées, et

provoquant le retrait par le système, en réponse à l'identification spécifiée, de l'insertion appropriée de données de texte pré-emmagasinées et la fusion desdites données dans ledit document à l'emplacement signalé pour obtenir un document révisé.

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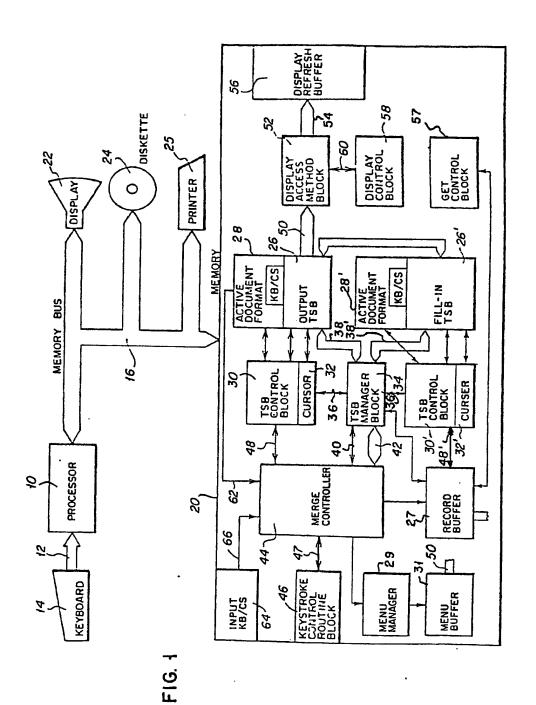
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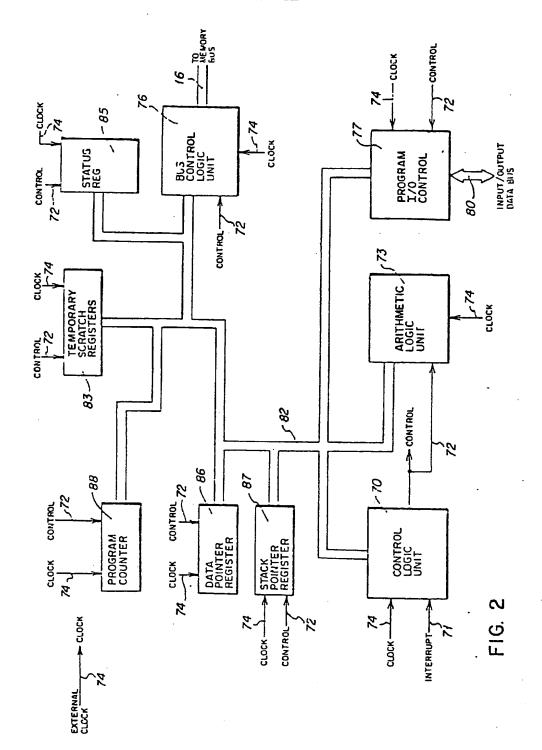
65

5. Méthode selon la revendication 4 caractérisée en ce que ledit premier code de commande comprend des "Codes de Commutation".

6. Méthode selon la revendication 4 caractérisée en ce que ledit seconde code de commande comprend des "Variables nommées".



1



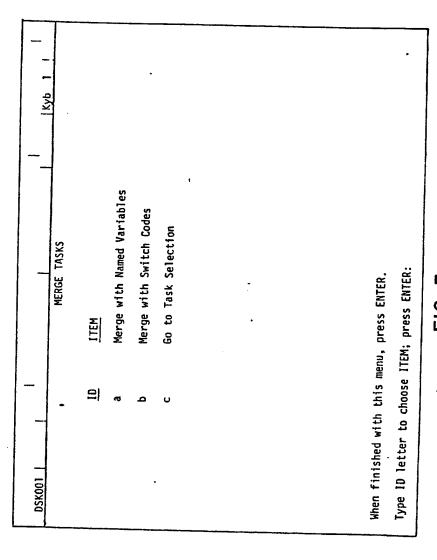


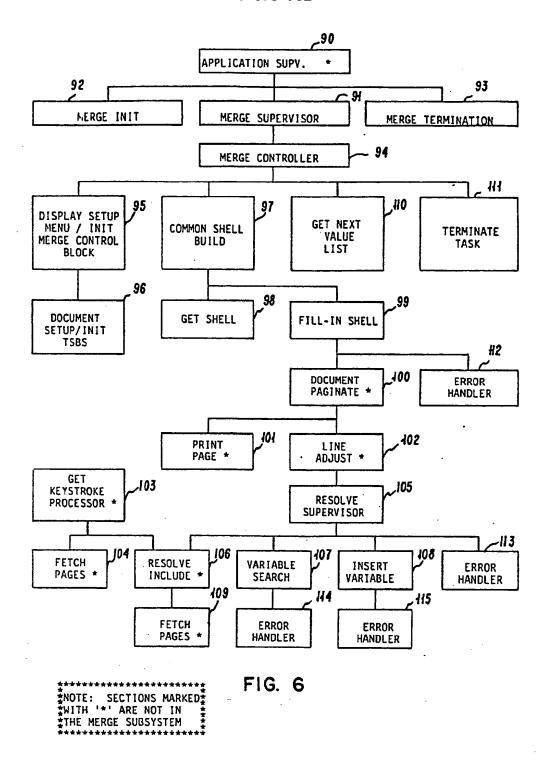
FIG. 3

DSKÖO1	DSKÖOIJI	_	Kyb 1	-
	MERGE WI	TH NAMED VA	MERGE WITH NAMED VARIABLES SETUP	
0]	ITEM	YOUR CHOICE	POSSIBLE CHOICES	
ф	Shell Document Name Diskette Name	•		
o o o	Fill-In Document Name Diskette Name System Page Number (s)			
#- Q5	Merged Document Name Diskette Name			
£ 100 100	Print Merged Document Cancel On Error Paper Handling	0	<pre>l = Yes 2 = No l = Yes 2 = No l = Cut Paper, Hanual Feed 2 = Cut Paper, Automatic Fee 3 = Continuous Paper</pre>	
:				
When fin Type 10	When finished with this menu, press ENTER. Type ID letter to choose ITEN; press ENTER:	ess ENTER. ress ENTER:		

F16. 4

Merging DSK001	Merging Variables DSKOO1			1 4.31
	MERGE	WITH SWIT	MERGE WITH SWITCH CODES SETUP	000
	ITEM	YOUR CHOICE	POSS IBLE CHOICES	
മച	Shell Document Name Diskette Name			
פרט	Fill-In Document Name Diskette Name			
& 4-	Merged Document Name Diskette Name			
5£-	Print Merged Document Cancel On Error Paper Handling	-:-8	1 = Yes 2 = No 1 = Yes 2 = No 2 = Cut Paper, Manual Feed 2 = Cut Paper, Automatic F 3 = Continuous Paper	.No Annal Feed Automatic Feed Paper
			·	
When finis	When finished with this menu, press ENTER.	S ENTER.		
Type ID 16	Type ID letter to choose ITEM; press ENTER:	SS ENTER:		•

FIG. 5



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